

16. The situation in Tajikistan

Initial proceedings

By a letter dated 19 October 1992 addressed to the Secretary-General,¹ the representative of Kyrgyzstan transmitted a letter dated 15 October, addressed to the Secretary-General, from the Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, expressing deep concern about the situation in the neighbouring Republic of Tajikistan. Noting that the measures taken by Tajikistan and the peacemaking efforts of Kyrgyzstan had not yet produced the desired results, the Chairman requested the United Nations to provide effective help to settle the conflict; asked the Security Council urgently to consider the issue; and asked the Secretary-General to take personal charge of the settlement of the conflict.

By a letter dated 21 October 1992 addressed to the President of the Security Council,² the representative of Tajikistan stated that, despite the efforts of his country's political leadership, armed conflict among local factions continued in two regions of the country, with consequent loss of life, displacement of population and serious material damage. His Government requested therefore that a peacemaking mission be sent, and humanitarian aid provided, to Tajikistan urgently.

By a letter dated 28 October 1992 addressed to the President of the Security Council,³ the representative of the Russian Federation transmitted a statement issued on 24 October by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation concerning the events in Tajikistan. The statement noted that there was a real threat of further escalation of the conflict and expansion of the civil war which could have "catastrophic" consequences for the territorial integrity of Tajikistan and the security of the whole Central Asian region. The Russian leadership was particularly concerned about the fate of the Russian nationals and Russian-speaking population in Tajikistan. It called on the opposing groups to end the fighting and the "fratricidal civil war", and appealed to the Commonwealth of Independent States, the United Nations and other international organizations to promote the normalization of the situation in Tajikistan. The Russian Federation stressed that all States, particularly Tajikistan's neighbours, should direct their efforts towards ending the conflict rather than inflaming it.

By a letter dated 29 October 1992 addressed to the Secretary-General,⁴ the representative of Tajikistan transmitted the text of a letter sent to the Secretary-General by the Acting President of Tajikistan on 15 October. The latter advised that the armed conflict in the south of the country was escalating and that several officers of the Russian army in the country had been won over by one of the local factions. The situation threatened to degenerate into a civil war, which could result in the disintegration of Tajikistan as a sovereign State and could have unpredictable consequences for neighbouring countries and for the international community as a whole. Tajikistan was relying on the support and assistance of the international community in settling the conflict and stabilizing the situation.

¹ S/24692.

² S/24699.

³ S/24725.

⁴ S/24741.

By a letter dated 29 October 1992 addressed to the President of the Security Council,⁵ the Secretary-General informed him of his decision to send a United Nations good-offices mission to Tajikistan and Central Asia. He had decided to send the mission in response to two communications, of 29 September and 15 October 1992, from the Acting President of Tajikistan, and with reference to the report of the United Nations fact-finding mission which had visited Uzbekistan and Tajikistan from 13 to 23 September 1992.

Decision of 30 October 1992 (3131st meeting): statement by the President

At its 3131st meeting, held on 30 October 1992 in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations, the Council included in its agenda the letter from the Secretary-General, as well as the letters from the representatives of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, dated 19 and 21 October 1992, respectively. Following the adoption of the agenda, the President (France) drew the attention of the members of the Council to the two other above-mentioned documents.⁶ At the same meeting, following consultations held earlier among the members of the Council, the President made the following statement on behalf of the Council:⁷

The Council has considered the communications received from the Government of Tajikistan.

The Council expresses its very grave concern about the continuing deterioration in the situation in Tajikistan, which is causing considerable loss of human life and serious material damage. It notes with concern the consequences for peace and security in the region that this crisis might entail.

The Council calls on all parties to the conflict to end the fighting. It urges the Government of Tajikistan, local authorities, party leaders and other groups concerned to enter into a political dialogue with a view to reaching an overall settlement of the conflict by peaceful means. It calls on parties in neighbouring countries to refrain from any action which might contribute to increasing tension and to impeding a settlement.

The Council welcomes the efforts made by the member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, on the initiative of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, and those undertaken by other States to help Tajikistan to resolve the crisis. It invites the Government of Tajikistan and all other parties to the conflict to cooperate actively with all these efforts.

The Council welcomes the Secretary-General's decision to send a goodwill mission, including a humanitarian assistance mission, to Tajikistan and Central Asia, in response to the requests of the Governments of the region, within the next few days as a contribution by the United Nations to resolving the conflict.

The Council calls on all parties to the conflict and the neighbouring countries to facilitate the work of the Secretary-General's mission and to ensure the safety of its personnel.

⁵ S/24739.

⁶ S/24725 and S/24741.

⁷ S/24742.